

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Striker on 10/20/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In claim 1, line 14, following "the axial bracing face (60)", - - wherein the axial bearing face (48) is located on a bottom face (46) of a bore (44) in the toothed element (32), wherein a through opening (52) is integrally formed onto the bottom face (46) of the bore (44) and receives a ball (56 that has the bracing face (60) - -, has been inserted.

Claims 2, 5, 11 and 13 have been cancelled.

In claim 6, line 1, "claim 5", has been replaced with - - claim 1 - -.

In claim 7, line 1, "claim 5", has been replaced with - - claim 6 - -.

In claim 12, lines 9-10, "the bottom face (46) of the bore (44) and receives a ball (56) that has the bracing face (60)", has been replaced with - - a bottom face (46) of a bore (44) and receives a ball (56) that has a bracing face (60) - -.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art neither discloses nor renders obvious the claimed combination comprising: a rotor shaft...braced axially on the housing via at least one face end; a separate toothed element for transmitting torque to a gear component, wherein said toothed element has a worm gear, wherein the toothed element has an axial bearing face, which rests on the at least one face end of the rotor shaft, wherein the axial bearing face is located on a bottom face of a bore in the toothed element, wherein a through opening is integrally formed onto the bottom face of the bore and received a ball that has the bracing face.

Nor does the prior art disclose or render obvious the claimed combination comprising: a rotor shaft...braced axially on the housing via at least one face end; a separate toothed element formed as a worm gear, wherein the toothed element has an axial bearing face, which rests on one of the face ends of the rotor shaft, wherein a through opening is integrally formed onto a bottom face of a bore and receives a ball, wherein said through opening is configured to receive said ball such that said ball is axially accommodated over half of its diameter in said through opening.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TERENCE BOES whose telephone number is (571)272-4898. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Terence Boes/
Examiner, Art Unit 3656

/Richard WL Ridley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3656